

DREW ACORN

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Letters To The Editor

Baker Discusses New Cut System

Dear Editor:

The editorial concerning the "cut system" in the last issue moves me to comment. In commenting I must specifically disavow any right to speak for anyone except myself; no one can rightfully claim that he represents the whole faculty and I certainly have no authority to speak for "the Administration"—that mysterious entity that seems, on every campus with which I have ever been associated, to be responsible for all the ills of the campus.

I have lived with three attendance systems at Drew and six other systems on five other campuses. None of them have been perfect. Any system represents an attempt to harmonize, by legislative compromise, several viewpoints. On the basis of my own experience, I would say that actual class attendance at Drew, over the past 10½ years, has been the poorest of any campus I have been on (and I was an undergraduate during the so-called "Roaring Twenties!"); I would also judge that the present system is the best of the three I have known at Drew.

All of the criticisms in the editorial I refer to have some validity. But correction will not be accomplished by any attendance regulations—either the present ones or the so-called "unlimited cut" system for which one suspects you are arguing. Compulsory attendance will no more make a student learn than unlimited cuts will make every faculty member either brilliant or entertaining. There is a relation, as you say, between freedom and responsibility, but I fear it is not quite what your editorial implies. The whole history of man, from ancient times to the Congo to the Drew campus, demonstrates that willingness to accept responsibility and a certain modicum of judgment are the indispensable antecedents of successful freedom. The present regulations give the student more freedom than he has ever had in judging for himself the validity of his need for being absent. They are also based on a firmer concept of his responsibility for being present unless he has other than trivial reasons for absence. The former systems, unfortunately, led too many students to the conclusion that they had a license to be absent a certain number of times for no reason whatsoever after they had, on either valid or fictional grounds, gotten as many "excused" absences as they could claim. Normally, these were the students who could least afford the luxury of absence for unnecessary causes.

The present regulations have not, admittedly, worked perfectly as yet. Nor do I think the fault lies altogether with the student side. The formal regulation was, so far as I am aware, never published. The Acorn article that professed to explain them certainly proved that they were ambiguous to someone on the Acorn staff. Though I did not write the regulation, I find little ambiguity in the regulation itself. Early in the semester some excused absences that were not really

"legal" were issued. The concept of "legitimate, tho unexcused" absence has recently been introduced. This may help or it may increase the confusion. I believe that if all parties put as much thought into trying to make the regulations work as has been put into criticizing them, they will be a marked improvement. It would even be my hope that the present regulations will help produce a stronger tradition of student responsibility so that the abolition of formal attendance requirements might come in the foreseeable future. But with any such freedom must go another—the recognition of the freedom of the student to choose and achieve academic downfall. This last freedom has seldom been accepted by any portion of American Academic Society—parents, students, or teachers. Certainly we have not accepted it here at Drew.

E. G. Stanley Baker

by Drew University students. I have no idea of the effect such publicity may have upon the School of Theology and the Graduate School but it is beyond question that the college will suffer immeasurably, not only in matters of recruitment, but more particularly in the area of scholarship aid and of fund-raising for such projects as a new science building. It is a strange kind of non-violence which does violence to all members of the community of which one is a member. It is a strange kind of martyrdom which martyrs hundreds of others against their will. Surely it is not necessary to say once again with John Donne "No man is an island, intire of it self; every man is a peece of the Continent, a part of the maine."

ALLEN WEATHERBY

Accusation Impertinent

Name Withheld by Request:

I have no idea what statement Dean Schultz may have made last year about coming on campus intoxicated and not bothering anyone. However, your quotation, whether accurate or not, has no pertinence in the present situation. In the case in question, the liquor was purchased off campus by a person under 21, was brought on campus and consumed on campus. Two of the persons involved were most certainly drunk and by no stretch of the imagination could they be described as not bothering anyone.

A. L. WEATHERBY

Baker Praises Convention Help

Editor,

On the Friday before the spring vacation, the Drew Chapter of Beta Beta Beta was host to the District Convention of this organization. There were present on the campus both students and faculty from five other schools in the Northeastern Region. Both as a faculty member of the host school and as District Director for this District, I was very pleased with the arrangements for the convention and the way that it was carried out. Many people who helped out are known to me but others are not. May I, therefore, use this method of expressing appreciation to the many people, both students and staff, who helped to make it such a very successful occasion?

Sincerely yours,
E. G. STANLEY BAKER

Editorials

Kudos Echoed

Many new phrases, many new concepts, and many new acquaintances shattered the usual campus humdrum this week as WERD made its debut. Such terms as "Coffee Hour," "Faison Interviews," and "Cheap Date" were foreign to the student vocabulary as the voice of President Oxnam was foreign to campus ears, and the possibilities of new form of campus communications not yet considered by the great number of students not responsible for the initiation of WERD.

We must congratulate very sincerely and emphatically the many students who worked over the past seven months to put WERD on the air. As noted in the speeches given on opening night, some of the administrators were, although enthusiastic, quite hesitant on the basis of experiences in other situations about the station's actual coming to life. This is of course understandable, for the skills necessary to start a radio station are not in most cases similar to those needed to start one more club, to stage one more production, to introduce one more sport, or to start a new publication. Bob Cohen, we feel must be congratulated, for his often acknowledged "persistence" in the preliminary work, but also for his ability to coordinate the many new problems and previously undealt-with questions whose solutions stood between planning and getting on the air.

George Hoag and Bob Warwick also, we feel deserve particular credit to their technical work, for without this the station could by no means have actually been begun. Perhaps it is the technical abilities of these students which most amazed those who were somewhat hesitant in their loyalty to the station's "becoming." Do we really have anyone on campus who could build a transmitter? Do we have the electrical facilities to accommodate the apparatus? Such questions as these were asked almost perfunctorily in the beginning with the expectancy of a negative reply. Their answers have been seen to be quite truthfully positive.

If we have the equipment, where can we broadcast? This was one of the major problems for Bob Cohen to solve. So many considerations had to be made in choosing a proper location, and so many proper locations were unavailable for continued use. The final acquisition of the Bowne studio still brought added problems—its door was not as wide as the console. But with much diligence on the part of the planners and much cooperation on the part of the administration, the small room in Bowne became the studio of WERD.

Then there were the considerations which more commonly come to mind in thinking about radio. What will we broadcast? Who will run the console? How do other schools operate their stations? These things were taken care of by the remaining members of the executive board—Dick DelGuidice, Larry Flood, Bob Harrall, Mike Sherbin, and Gale Sypher, with the assistance of some additional thirty-three people whose names appear on the program bulletin.

In conference with some of the officials of WERD, the station directors wish to emphasize that they will welcome student suggestions offered either verbally or in the form of letters which might be read over the air.

At present there are, of course, many minor imperfections in the broadcasting of the system, but we wish to emphasize that this is only the beginning of a most successful "experiment."

Dean Remarks On CD Protest

Dear Editor:

I should like to make a few remarks about the planned demonstration against Civil Defense next month. It has been said that the situation is like that of students engaging in sit-in demonstrations in the South. It has been said that it is like the Methodist participation in the underground railway in defiance of the Fugitive Slave Act prior to the Civil War. It has even been said that this demonstration is similar to the Boston Tea Party. I fail to see the resemblance. Whether this law be wise or foolish, it was certainly passed by the Legislature in good faith as an attempt to protect people from danger. It may be a pitiful attempt but it is not for that reason immoral. It is further said that the law is militaristic and leads people to take for granted the coming of nuclear war. It might, however, be said with equal logic that these alerts, coming as they do once a year, remind people annually of the horror, of the unthinkability of nuclear war.

Certainly, then, the issue is a very fuzzy one. It is not a matter of a law like the segregation laws which obviously contravene the first principles of our Constitution and which do offense to our deepest religious convictions. Any demonstration which takes place on this campus will be interpreted by the community and by the nation as an action taken

Those who are scheduled for the Bell Labs experiment in psychology, please check the bulletin boards in B.C. and the Student Center for reminders of time and place for each group.

Those who are scheduled for the week of April 10 through 14, remember that on Tuesday, April 11, due to the interference of the Graduate Record Exams, Group I will meet from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. and Group II will meet from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. (other days as previously scheduled).

Students are reminded that if they are late or miss any of the sessions, they will receive nothing for the time spent since incomplete scores are of no use to those conducting the experiment.

Don't Forget!!!

The New York Philharmonic Septet will perform this evening at 8 p.m. in the Donald R. Baldwin Auditorium.

In connection with an incident which took place on campus March 17, I wish to request that students reporting untoward incidents get in touch with Mr. Ralph Smith, Dean Sawin or myself rather than calling the Madison Police Department directly, except in cases of dire emergency. It is a tradition as old as the universities of the western world itself that such matters, whenever possible, are handled on campus by university authorities. This is understood by the municipality and is agreeable to them.